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A JOURNEY FROM NEW YORK TO
MONTREAL BY WAY OF SARATOGA.

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JOURNEY
FROM
NEW YORK TO MONTREAL
BY WAY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
AND NIAGARA FALLS
IN THE YEAR
1824

PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT

VINELAND N. J.

1912

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PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
IN THE POSSESSION OF

FRANK D. ANDREWS
Secretary Vineland Historical and Antiquarian
Society

PRINTED FOR THE PUBLISHER
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P R E F A C E

The manuscript record of a journey from New York to Montreal, by way of Saratoga Springs and Niagara Falls in 1824, is written on twenty-four pages of a memorandum or copy book of that period. The spelling of a few words have been corrected, otherwise the manuscript has been quite closely followed.

The record seems to be of sufficient interest to put in printed form giving as it does an account of a visit to the Indian settlements of the Buffalo and Tuscarora tribes, and an interesting description of an election in Canada.

The name of the writer of the manuscript or any member of the party who made the journey with him does not appear, he is, however, believed to have been a resident of Philadelphia.

The inconvenience to which the party were subjected by the slow method of travel in 1824 presents a marked contrast to the rapidity, ease and comfort the route may be covered today.

An edition of one hundred and ten copies only, have been printed, part of which will be distributed to, or exchanged with historical societies and libraries.

FRANK D. ANDREWS

VINELAND, N. J.

MAY 10, 1912

A JOURNEY
FROM
NEW YORK TO MONTREAL
BY WAY OF
SARATOGA SPRINGS AND NIAGARA FALLS
IN THE YEAR 1824

At 6 on the morning of the 11 June 1824 we repair'd to the foot of Courtland Street & had the mortification to find that the Boat was completely filled & pushed off before the time appointed to avoid sinking with excess of passengers, we returned & had A comfortable breakfast, after which at 10 we got on Board the C Livingston & by the conveniences of the Boat & the politness of the Capt were amply repaid for the disaster of the morning.

The course of the River: for abt 50 miles continues straight & almost due north the shores alternately stoney sand & gravel the western shores on passing New Jersey [6 & 8 Miles] is A continued Ridge the upper of which is formed of Stone as if regularly plan'd as A Barrier forbidding any communication between the water & land which from their Singular & regular appearance are called the palisades the whole height abt 250 feet near this place I counted 42 Sail of River craft of A neat appearance on their way to & from market principally Sloops neat Buildings & A few that may be called beautifull are to be seen on the eastern shore near N Y.

After passing up the River 50 miles it Bends to the west & exhibits the most truly Romantic

Scenery that this or perhaps the Banks of any other River affords both sides especially the west present an ever varying suspicion of mountains Ridges & mounds covered with Rich but low shrubbery which the scantiness of soil on the Rocks stunted in their growth. A great variety & number of neat Buildings are to be seen on the shores where the mountain recedes tho' A very short distance from the River all of which have A small inclosure from A garden of a few feet square to A corn field of A tolerable size

The Heights continue some distance above west point the site of this establishment is most appropriate if any effect can be produced by A rough & Bold Surface this spot is certainly calculated to inspire the young men that are pursuing their studies there with courage & enterprise corresponding with the Hills & resistless stream that flows at their Foot

The lateness of the Boat this morning was the cause of irreparable loss to us as the night coming on the villages on the River side were hidden from us the River above the Town of new York is in width ab't $\frac{3}{4}$ of A mile & continues nearly the same to Albany A distance of 160 Miles no adequate Idea can be convey'd of the Slopes & Steeps the cottages & Farm houses of the Towns & villages on this noble River by either pencil or pen The tide ebbs & flows above Albany The Town of Albany contains or is reputed to contain 15,000 inhabitants many Large Stores & Fine dwellings Some of the most ancient & singular Houses I have ever seen their date was to be seen on the front wall

one of which was 1714 & its whole appearance such as you will find in no other place in this Town we Saw the greatest number of Stages neat & good with good Horses than I ever beheld in any place

At nine in the morning of the 12th we left Albany on our way to Saratoga & engaged the Stageman to go A little out of his direct road to get A view of the Cahoes' Fall on the Mohawk River this river is the size of Schuykill the cascade is 40 feet & very percipitate from the Road about 1 Mile distant its appearance is that of A Body of Ice or Snow as we approach'd [for we left the Stage & walk'd through wood within $\frac{1}{4}$ of A mile] the foaming of the water as it gush'd over the Rocks added the heights of the Rivers Banks on which we stood was Beautiful & curious in the extreme

By the Stage arrangement we were obliged to have an addition to our company & Invited Dr Nanirede & his wife who came in the Boat from N Y at the same time & were going to Saratoga, to join us which they did & proved A great acquisition to our party & hope our acquaintance will be lasting

we reach'd the Springs before Tea hour & stop'd at the most considerble place of entertainment [Congress Hall] it is A Frame Building the largest in the town of 200 feet Front & truly A House of many apartments. The Town of Saratoga is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in length there are 90 Houses & Stores on the main Street ten of which are Boarding Houses or Taverns for that purpose 3 or 4 of them is about 100 to 200 feet Front

we had 2 days of Rain in Succession but were not so much concern'd about the weather as we had sufficient time to go to the Springs between Showers & were Ignorant of loss we should have sustained by A continuance of the Rain until we Join'd A party to see & to Fish in Saratoga Lake seven miles from this place the Banks of the Lake do not exceed 30 feet in height they slope gently with sandy shores we can see Farms where abt A mile in width A few cultivated fields & A sufficiency of wood lands to Form such A Delightful Scenery that we could scarcely imagine any thing to Improve it

the lake is 9 Miles in length & in widest place 3 Miles its waters are remarkably transparent & abound with sun & other small Fish it empties into Round Lake & then into the noble Hudson

On the morning of the 16th at 3 o Clock we by previous arrangement took Stage for Schenectady & after Breakfast Hired an extra stage to Utica A distance of 80 Mile after A Ride before Breakfast of 23 miles Our course was due west by the side of the mohawk & the Grand canal we scarcely lost sight of either the whole day

To give A Just Idea of this Beautiful River would be totally impossible It exhibits on its Sides every Kind of variety capable of being form'd by Earth Rock Trees & water some of the most delightful valleys & Islands of the greatest Fertility highly cultivated one of which reminds me of Blennerhassetts Island in the Tryal of Burr In some places the mountain recede A great distance & delights the beholder with Fine fields of waving Grain & as yet

but partially ting'd with the Golden color of Harvest & the grass is yet standing

Suddenly the whole face of the country would change as if by magic & nothing but Rocks & hills & craggy steeps to be seen & the Road on to Top of A mountain from which we look'd down A fearfull height at the River tumbling & Roaring over its Rough Bottom

we at length arrived at Utica at $\frac{1}{2}$ past ten after A Ride 103 Miles this day

On the morning of the 17th we left Utica on the Grand canal which the humour of the Girls opposed yesterday

We are now Gliding along on A Body of water abt 40 feet wide & $4\frac{1}{2}$ in depth perfectly unruffled drawn by 3 Horses that walk on the Shore in A narrow Path at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles the Hour the price 4 cts the mile for that sum we are well entertained A Good Table & Bed in comfortable cabin

we have this moment passed an aqueduct 30 feet in height through which A creek passes the water of the canal Flowing over it we have pass'd several of less height over small streams this great work was urged on by A man of unusual energy & force of character none but he could have accomplish'd it against the opposing efforts of A great part of the State who pronounc'd it A waste of treasure & A work of centuries DeWitt Clinton under whose controul members of the legislature were only cyphers in this great work has been after it is complet'd rejected by them & despised & such is the falibility of poor mortals that the same legislature after

his Death will Raise A monument to his memory as the greatest man the nation has produced next Washington

we arrived on this evening [19th Inst. at the Town of Batavia after A Ride of 50 Miles from Rochester where we left the canal & had the satisfaction to find our esteem'd Relation James Milnor in good health & his standing amongst the good people of this place was Abundantly shown by their politeness & attention to us & we were obliged contrary to our determination to Stay A day in the Town

I neglected to notice Rochester at the canal A Town of 3,000 population many Fine Stores & Houses give the place an importance that few travellers have known equal'd & when we reflect that 8 or 10 years ago only A few Solitary Houses compos'd the whole city

The canal crosses the Genesee River at this Town by an aqueduct on 7 arches the tow path is completely Form'd well paved & has A neat Iron Railing of abt 600 feet 2 Miles below the Town this River has 2 falls — Miles apart of 50 feet in height at this season the water is unusually high & gushes over in considerable depth & form A most Beautiful view its high Banks narrowing at the bottom until it approaches the next fall increases the Rapidity of the current & the Roaring of the water as it falls on the Rocks below The Bed of this River or that part I have seen of it 3 Miles above & below the Town is entirely Rock

Late in the day on 21st we reach'd Buffalo it is situated at the end of Lake Erie our Lodging

at the lower Side of the Town commanded A fine view of it. Toward the South west we saw distant vessels & no object beyond the water the width here is probably wide & it has precisely the appearance of the ocean

22nd our party went to an Indian village the Buffalo Tribe in number abt 600 or A small remnant of them live 5 or 6 miles from the Town of Buffalo in A miserable & filthy condition with A few exceptions the few that are engaged in agriculture & have cattle live better but many are unable to speak english or to enjoy any of the comforts of civilized life The internal Broil or party Spirit rages Amongst them 'tho less Fiercely than amongst christians' they have A popular old chief 'Red Jacket' who is not [to use the words of the Indian who spoke to me of him] he not very much good, he get Drunk some time

this chief rejects every Species of what we concieve to be the necessary arts & adheres strictly to the old customs by the interference of some Benevolent persons A school was establish'd in A village for the instruction of the children this old chief gave directions to Send the Teacher away the General opinion is that at his Death which cannot be very distant as he is 60 years old & intemperate & has no children to Succeed him if regulations amongst them admit of that course to get A chief. That his party that is now most numerous will lose their strength with their chief & A System of Education & A Knowledge of the arts will abolish all their Savage customs & they will no longer be A distinct people

we rode 2 miles Further to see Red Jacket he was from home not to return untill sun sett His wife Invited us into the House [through an interpreter] A one story Logg House with one Room, the furniture A few common chairs A Table 2 Beds on Ruff Board Bed Steads A logg set upright with the end scoop'd out to the size of A large Bowl for the purpose of pounding corn & some pots &c &c those of the Indians I convers'd with agreed that the only Quality on which his popularity Rested was his Skill in the councils or as they say Jacket talk well, they uniformly call him Jacket as they have no great respect for him When his dynasty ends Pollard A prudent & Brave man will become their chief the excessive badness of the Roads prevented our seeing him I had A great curiosity to see him as the Indians say he is A Good man he talk well he dont get drunk He is said to live well has A good House & many cattle wishes to have their children Taught to Read and favours intercourse with white people & every useful Business as many of the young people read and write & others will be sent to school by their parents & Instructed by well disposed people near them the name of Pollard will strengthen & I have no doubt prevail

I was much pleased with A young man by name Lewis Too Gem & left the carriage & our company waiting in the Road cross'd several Fields in the Rain & found him mowing which he appeared to understand he speaks good English went to School several years near Philad'a 'London Grove' he is A fine looking Fellow

speaks in high terms of Pollard & wish'd me to go & see him saying it was only 2 miles & he would go with me as all my friends there were opposed to going on act of the excessive Badness of the Roads I could not urge nor allow them to wait for me was therefore obliged to pass on without seeing this distinguished Savage

Lewis was not only civil but Polite he left his sythe in the grass to walk to the carriage with me I gave him some money to Buy Books for the children & Bade him adieu The lands Belonging to the Indians of this Settlement is exceedingly fertile & level tho' very little farmed & cultivated is capable of making most valuable Farms & the part we saw is within 7 miles of the termination of the Grand canal

These unfortunate people are greatly annoy'd by A description of whites that are too numerous every where their Timber & cattle are stolen one man told me he lost 2 Horses & had but one left he follow'd A great way but lost track of the thief

we went in the afternoon to Black Rock & cross'd the Niagara River & Rode 17 miles by A delightful Road by its side the Bank is in no place above 10 or 12 feet until you approach near the falls. The current Runs 6 miles an hour the whole Body of water is in motion Boiling up & circles running into one another over the surface as if ten thousand Rock below were interrupting its passage The water is deep of A very Green colour & abounds with Fish

I have made A sketch of the Falls that with my story when I return may give A

Faint Idea of it but no Image or Story can do it Justice we have seen it from every direction being detained here several days waiting for the Boat that takes us down the Lake we fill up our time by seeing all we can To day the 25th rode 7 as honest miles as I ever seen in our country over A Ruff Road in A Dearborn without springs to see Tuscarora Indians they have abandon'd many or most of their Savage customs & are cleanly in their persons & Houses

I saw & convers'd with Cusick the chief or one of the chiefs of this tribe he speaks & Reads english perfectly well has been in the principal cities in the union was in Philada 2 years ago & may be there again within that time he is Lame with Rheumatism & 64 years old I invited him to come & see me when in our city which he engaged to do, he is tall his face is in no respect above common except his eyes which are rather Better than the Indian my after opinion of him is that he possesses sagacity & great piety we reach'd the village at meeting hour & went into their church A one Story Logg Building about 20 Feet Square with low Story about 20 or 30 strangers & 70 Indians composed the Group I sat near Cusick & he continued talking to myself & 2 others showing & explaining the Books on the desk that were printed in Indian & English some words were composed of 19 letters after A short pause he took A folded paper out of his pocket on which A Hymn was written in their Language turning to me he repeated the first line in english & said we will now worship the great Spirit he Rose & Read

the Hymn aloud when he took his seat 6 men rose on the opposite side of the Room & sang with the assistance of the women as well as we hear in any of the Churches in perfect time & very harmonious Cusock advanced & Rested his left hand on the side of the desk & turn'd his closed eye's toward Heaven leaning forward implored the mercies of the Great Spirit in the most devout & affecting manner with all the earnestness of A genuine christian while tears fell from his eyes it served to add solemnity to the meeting & convinced the audience of his ardent devotion his language was like A gentle flowing stream with little emphasis until he pronounc'd the name of Jesus Christ when as if to give it more effect he made A full pause & retir'd to his seat after the 2nd Hymn he took his position by the side of the Desk & began his sermon which lasted about $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour he spoke with great ease in rather A low tone of voice tho' sufficient for the Room he rested one hand on the desk as before & the other against his Body used very little Gesture but with his hand from his Rist his manner seem'd full of mildness & persuasion & his whole appearance was venerable & respectable & very little indeed corresponding with our Ideas of A Savage he repeated the name Jesus Christ with similar emphasis & the only words we understood in his discourse

These Indians dress variously some with Blankets & Barefoot others had moccasins & A piece of Blue Cloth the size of A Blanket with many silver trinkets in their ears & silver or pla-

ted Bands an Inch wide Round their hats this tribe consists of 300 & they have 6,000 acres of Land

This morning 2 Inst, we crossed to the cana-da side in order to witness the preparation for An election that was expected to continue 8 days

The election was open'd by the high Sheriff or to use their term A Knight Girt with Sword he directed A very lengthy & formal paper to be read showing his high authority seal'd with the great seal for the chosing 4 members of the Parliament of upper canada, The people collect in Front of the Piazza & make their nominations aloud which when seconded are taken down by the Sheriff's clerk, when the nominations are closed permission is given to the different candidates to address the people The popular prejudice Runs very strongly in favour of Farmers

The first that presented himself was an Irishman who had lost none of the Brogue he was mounted on A waggon in the crowd & told them he follow'd the honorable profession of A merchant that His interest was deeply connected with that of Farmers if farming fail'd his Business would fail also it would therefore be wise & prudent to send him to parliament He had his story written & at the request of the people Paddy mounted Plazza all over again The next orator was A doctor he promis'd to redress all Grievances represented himself to have been A hero, during the late war against A savage Foe, & an army more savage he need not tell of the privations he suffered as A Soldier, that he had left his home & left his family that he need no

tell them of the love he bore them & the faithfulness with which he would perform all their wishes & advocate their cause tho' he might oppose the heads of department or even the Lieutenant Governor himself so that he retained the favor of the people that it was necessary to send to parliament men of talent & energy, that he was not ambitious but his friends had forc'd him to be A candidate but what was the peoples wish was his wish that ignorance in parliament would destroy their hopes & Ruin the country. God save the King! God save the people!

I Believe 6 others address'd the mob they all appear'd to me to be men of the humblest order to say the least not A man of them was ever designed by nature to be Legislator

We left this great wonder of nature for the Steam Boat in Ontario & Stop'd on our way at the half finish'd monument of Genl Brock on Queenston Hights The monument will be when finish'd A curiosity it is made or making of hewn stone the Base abt 20 feet square & now 30 feet high $\frac{1}{3}$ the height intended

The view from this spot does credit to the taste that selected it for the monument it is the highest Ground on the Niagara River & commands the Finest prospect on both sides the River including 'Queenstown on the canada & Lewistown on the American shores the distant country on Both sides the River form A perfect picture The harvest fields A Golden colour though not yet Ripe [7 mo 29th]

Our passage up Ontario occupi'd 2 days & 2 nights we were not more than 15 miles from the

American shore but the Lake to the west was A perfect Sea as the eye in that direction could reach no object save A Distant Sail of vessels that trade on the Lake & I learn'd of one of the men on Board the Boat that he had tied A line of 300 feet without finding Bottom

As Sackets Harbour is A stopping place for mdse & Passengers we were detained there 6 Hours & employed ourselves in seeing all worth attention there

A fortification Fronting on the Lake forming A square from the waters side Buildings of stone 2 story enclosed 10 or 12 Acres all ground as level as A Floor & the most Beautiful Parade ground I ever saw A few Brass cannon & morters Ranged along next the water to command the Lake in time o' need

The preparations during the late war at this point were immense, 10 vessels one ship are sunk in the Harbour for their preservation & one on the stocks 210 feet long & 54 feet wide (over which A House is made at the cost of \$25,000) Such was the industry & number of workman in thirty days that the Frame was compleat & plank'd to the 2nd Deck as it remains & in 33 days more it would have been floating on Bosom of the lake

I forgot to mention detention at Niagara of 5 days wating for the Steam Boat down from Ogdensburgh to Lewistown to perform the voyage requires 8 days & is the only means of making the Route we had mark'd out

The Town of Sackets Harbour presents A Ruinous aspect of Deserted and unfinish'd Houses

The depreciation of Houses & lots is scarcely credible in conversation with an intelligent resident I learn'd that such as were sold for \$3,000 would not now command 300 or A purchaser at any price This town came into existence with the war & will follow it to oblivion

When we Reach'd ogdensburgh where the Rapids commence we were desirous to pass down the St Lawrence in A Boat rather than take the Stage on act of the novelty as well the facility of that mode, but were foil'd [no Boats to be had] & were obliged to betake ourselves to Stages we Rode A great part of the way by the Rivers side & had A fine view of the principal Rapids by which had we succeeded in getting A Boat we should have been carri'd down at the Rate of 20 Miles the hour in perfect safety, we got to montreal 8 mo 2nd & were unluckily to late for the Steam Boat & obliged to wait 3 days for its return as this Town proves to exceed my expectations greatly the disappointment has been less but for my concern about home, as I had no alternative I must submit patiently tho' unhappily & find employment in surveying the place

The Roman catholic Religion is almost universal among the natives & chapels & Seminaries for the education of the Priests are numerous, the Parish church as it is called is the largest & ancient is very splendid it is always open for the convenience of the Inhabitants who enter at all hours to worship & for the remission of their sins we went in it many times in Passing & invariably saw the penitents thinly scater'd over the church performing their devotional exercises

Some enter suddenly & fall on their Knees cross themselves after an rapid motion of their lips for one or two minutes Rise up & Retire the men with whips in their hands as from the country or laborers in the streets & the women in the convent attire which leads inevitably to the conclusion that the more refin'd receive the Benefit of Gospel where they will not be interrupted by the eye of the Public when the Priest Graciously absolves them from sin & they evince their gratitude by giving him A fee

For the convenience of those that confess in the church there are 6 to 12 Boxes sufficiently large for A chair with A lattice side near which the poor sinner kneels in waiting for the Priest who at length comes in A side passage with A fat & Rudy Face & A measur'd step religion in his Garb solemnity in his air & perhaps pride on his Brain Takes his seat in the Box & patiently hears the tale of woe & kindly Blots it out for ever

This church is to be taken down It stands in the Middle of Notre Dame St & A new one 100 by 150 feet is now Building for which \$250,000 are appropriated it front on the same st opposite the present one

The new church when Finish'd will for Richness & elegance exceed any thing of the kind this side the Atlantic they have ample means & esteem it piety to decorate their churches in the highest degree

All the natives speak French & A large proportion know little or nothing of English I ask'd Questions of the people in the street & in

the church & was obliged to resort to the little French I have retain'd to get information.

Some of the Houses are Large many of 1 & 2 Story & generally with outer doors & window Shutters of Iron, the streets are narrow & the Sidé walks only sufficient for 2 persons with few exceptions the population is about 20,000 including the suburbs where the Houses are log & 1 Story occupi'd by native Canadians who enjoy A humble community of their own speak french only & have the appearance of Indians, perform all the labor whilst the commerce of the place & the offices of Government is in the hands of strangers

We saw the convent of the Black nuns passed through a part of the House were not allow'd to see but 2 or 3 who were of mature age, say 50

The St Lawrence at the Town is $1\frac{1}{2}$ Mile wide & Rapid the ground rises behind the city gently about $\frac{1}{4}$ of A mile when it suddenly becomes A mountain & from its top we see distinctly the Town the River A fine range of meadow & cultivated low land for miles in extent A number of fine Houses between the foot of the mountain & the Town that front on the River there & A great proportion of the Houses in this country are covered with Tin

End of the manuscript.

